

59. *RALLUS OCULEUS* (Temm.); Hartl., Orn. Westafr. p. 241. *Gallinula oculea*, Id., Journ. f. Orn. pp. 357, 361.

One specimen of this splendid Rail, which would appear to be exceedingly rare in collections. At present it has only been met with on the Rio Boutry by Heer Pel, and in Aguapim by Riis, while, according to Dr. Hartlaub, there is a specimen from the Gaboon in the Paris Museum.

60. *LIMNOCORAX FLAVIROSTRIS* (Swains.); Hartl., Orn. Westafr. p. 244. *Gallinula flavirostris*, Id., Journ. f. Orn. 1855, p. 361.

One specimen.

XVI.—*Note on the species of the Genus Hirundinea, belonging to the family Tyrannidæ.* By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Zoological Society.

(Plate V.)

IN the second part of his lately-published 'Ornithologie Brasi-liens',* Herr von Pelzeln has correctly shown that two very distinct species of birds have usually been confounded under the name *Hirundinea ferruginea*. One of these, the true *H. ferruginea*, inhabits the Guianan region, whilst the second, which Herr von Pelzeln (following Prince Max.) calls *H. rupestris*, is its representative in South-eastern Brazil. Professor Reinhardt has recently most kindly forwarded to me for examination a skin of what appears to be a third representative species of this peculiar genus of *Tyrannidæ*. This specimen was obtained by Professor Reinhardt, during his voyage round the world in the 'Galatea,' from Don Mariano Rivero, of Lima, along with the beautiful Tanager (*Iridornis reinhardti*) which I figured and described in 'The Ibis' for 1865, and was stated to have been received from Eastern Peru. I was at first inclined to agree with Professor Reinhardt in regarding this bird as undescribed; but after carefully perusing Azara's original description of his "*Suiriri roxo obscuro*" (Apunt. ii. p. 129), I feel nearly convinced that it is the same as the Paraguayan form upon which Vieillot has founded his *Tyrannus bellicosus*.

* *Vide antea*, pp. 113-117.

The three species of the genus *Hirundinea* will therefore stand as follows :—

a. *Uropygio dorsoque concoloribus, fusco-nigricantibus.*

1. *HIRUNDINEA FERRUGINEA.* (Plate V. fig. 2.)

Ferruginous-bellied Tody, Lath. Syn. ii. p. 662.

Todus ferrugineus, Gm. S. N. i. p. 446; Lath. Ind. Orn. i. p. 267.

Hirundinea ferruginea, Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 113.

H. fusca: capitis lateribus albicante mixtis: alis intùs et speculo alari cum corpore subtùs ferrugineis: caudâ unicolori fuscâ: long. tota 6·5, alæ 4·4, caudæ 3 poll. Angl.

Hab. Cayenne (*Latham*); Rio Içanna (*Natt.*).

Mus. Vindob.; P. L. S.

The Vienna Museum possesses a specimen of this bird, acquired at the sale of the Leverian Museum, which is in all probability the original of Latham's description. Herr von Pelzeln tells us that it agrees completely with Natterer's skins, which were obtained on the Rio Içanna, one of the upper branches of the Rio Negro. One of the latter has been kindly surrendered to me in exchange by the authorities of the Vienna Museum.

2. *HIRUNDINEA BELLICOSA.* (Plate V. fig. 1.)

Suiriri roxo obscuro, Azara, Apunt. ii. p. 129, No. 189.

Tyrannus bellicosus, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxxv. p. 74; Enc. Méth. p. 846.

Hirundinea bellicosa, D'Orb. Voy. Ois. p. 314; Hartl. Ind. Azar. p. 12.

Myiarchus ferrugineus, Cab. in Tsch. Faun. Per. *Aves*, p. 154.

Hirundinea ferruginea, Slater, P. Z. S. 1855, p. 150.

H. fusca: capitis lateribus albicante mixtis: alis intùs et speculo alari cum corpore subtùs ferrugineis: caudâ fuscâ, rectricum pogoniis internis a basi usque ad partem tertiam apicalem ferrugineis: long. tota 8, alæ 4·5, caudæ 4·2.

Hab. Paraguay, in summer (*Azara*); Bolivia, eastern slope D'Orb); Eastern Peru (*Tsch. et Rivero*); Bogota (*Mus. Brit.*).

Mus. Hafn.; Brit.

Azara's description, as already stated, seems to apply best to this species and not to *H. rupestris*; but D'Orbigny's agrees more nearly with the Brazilian bird. On the whole, however, I am

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inclined to retain the name *bellicosa* for this form, until I have had the opportunity of comparing Paraguayan and Bolivian specimens.

The Bogota skin in the British Museum agrees with Prof. Reinhardt's Peruvian bird.

Azara tells us that this bird makes its appearance in Paraguay in the spring, at the same time as *Tyrannus melancholicus*, to which it presents much resemblance in physiognomy and habits. Sometimes, he says, it may be seen perched upon the roofs and towers, and at other times crying about the porticos of the churches and towers like a Swallow.

D'Orbigny says that he met with *H. bellicosa* on the eastern slope of the Bolivian Andes, in Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, and Challuani, and again in the province of Chiquitos, at the Mission of Santiago; so that it inhabits the warm districts of his first and second regions of elevation. It is seen in the villages, where it is as familiar as a domestic bird, remaining always in the courts, in the streets, on the roofs, and perching upon the balustrades of the corridors. Here it seeks its food, which consists of spiders and other insects. It appropriates the nests of the Oven-birds (*Furnarius*) or of the Swallows, after having driven out the proprietors, and appears to resort to them the whole year for the purpose of roosting. It is of a quarrelsome disposition, like other *Tyrannidæ*, and is constantly battling with the Swallows and Oven-birds which frequent the same kind of places. Its flight is horizontal, like that of the Swallows, which it resembles in all its habits.

Tschudi tells us that this species is found in the coast-region of Peru as well as in the eastern wood-region; but I should be rather inclined to suppose that there is some error here, as I have never seen this bird in collections from Western Peru.

As will be seen from the diagnoses, the present bird is much more nearly like *H. ferruginea* than *H. rupestris*, but is readily distinguishable from the former species by the ferruginous red of the tail-feathers. This colour occupies the whole of the inner webs of the rectrices, from their bases to within about an inch of their extremities, except in the case of the middle pair, in which it only occupies the basal third.

b. *Uropygio ferrugineo*.3. *HIRUNDINEA RUPESTRIS*. (Plate V. fig. 3.)

Muscicapa rupestris, Max. Reise in Bras. i. p. 345 (1820).

Platyrhynchus hirundinaceus, Spix, Av. Bras. ii. p. 11, t. 13.

f. 1 (1825).

Platyrhynchus rupestris, Max. Beitr. iii. p. 977.

Muscivora ferruginea, Burm. Syst. Ueb. ii. p. 505.

Hirundinea rupestris, Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 113.

"*Tyrannus pyrrhophæus*, Vieill.," Pelz. l. c.

H. fusca: uropygio, alis intus, speculo alari magno et tectricum secundariorumque marginibus cum toto corpore subtùs ferrugineis; caudâ ferrugineâ, tertiâ parte apicali nigricantifuscâ: long. tot. 6·5, alæ 3·9, caudæ 2·6.

Hab. Campos of South-eastern Brazil (*Max. et Burmeister*); S. Paulo and Rio (*Natterer*).

Burmeister tells us that this bird is not found in the wood-region, but only in the Campos of Inner Brazil. He saw it continually when resident at Lagoa Santa, in the province of Minas.

Prince Maximilian first obtained it upon the Upper Rio Belmonte, afterwards in Espirito Santo and Ilheos, two districts on the west coast. He tells us that it has the peculiarity of frequenting rocks and walls, and is often seen sitting upon the roofs of the dwellings, and, where there are no rocks or buildings, upon an isolated branch. On the Upper Rio Belmonte, where there are many rocks bordering the sides of the stream, it appeared to be common, and was constantly seen perched on the look-out for insects. The Portuguese call this bird *Casaca de couro* or *Gibão de couro* (Leatherjacket).

Natterer obtained seventeen examples of this species at Ypanema, Ytarare, and other places in the provinces of S. Paulo and Rio. One was shot from the roof of a water-mill, and was stated by the natives to frequent commonly such places and the adjoining dams, and to breed in holes.